

Serial No.: 09/683,380
Attorney Docket No.: F-441

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-7 were pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 1-7 and added new claims 8-17. Applicants respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 will remain pending in the application.

2. Drawings

Applicants have filed a Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections herewith. Applicants have amended the specification paragraph 68 to show reference numerals 504, 505. In FIG. 5B, Applicants propose changing reference "D" to "F", reference "B" to "C" and reference "C" to "D" in order to be consistent with FIGs. 5C and 5D. Applicants have amended paragraph 46 accordingly.

3. Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 4-7 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-9 of co-pending Application No. 09/818,195. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, Applicants reserve the right to file a terminal disclaimer should the rejection become final.

4. Rejections under 35 USC § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended claims 3 and 5-7 for cosmetic reasons. The Examiner states that claims 5-7 are indefinite regarding detecting the source indicators to detect a hazard. The claims recite testing for hazards and sending source information to the central server. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 3 and 5-7 satisfy 35 U.S.C. section 112, second paragraph.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3 and 5-7.

5. Rejections under 35 USC § 102

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Sansone (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0141613A1).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner admits that the reference does not identically anticipate the invention as presently claimed.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "a plurality of detectors each including a contaminant detection hazard detector for triggering a mail piece quarantine indication." Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite "testing the mail piece for hazards to determine an initial mail piece quarantine condition." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not fairly teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed.

Should the rejection be maintained, Applicants reserve the right to provide additional evidence such as that under 37 C.F.R. sections 1.131 and 1.132.

Claims 2-3 and 5-7 depend directly or indirectly from the respective independent claims and are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and request early and favorable consideration of the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-7.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1-7.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Tsikos, et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0062414A1).

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Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner has not put forth an anticipation rejection.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "a plurality of detectors each including a contaminant detection hazard detector for triggering a mail piece quarantine indication." Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite "testing the mail piece for hazards to determine an initial mail piece quarantine condition." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not fairly teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed.

Should the rejection be maintained, Applicants reserve the right to provide additional evidence such as that under 37 C.F.R. sections 1.131 and 1.132.

Claims 2-3 and 5-7 depend directly or indirectly from the respective independent claims and are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and request early and favorable consideration of the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-7.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1-7.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Call, et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0124664A1).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner has not put forth an anticipation rejection.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "a plurality of detectors each including a contaminant detection hazard detector for triggering a mail piece quarantine indication." Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite "testing the mail piece for hazards to determine an initial

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mail piece quarantine condition." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not fairly teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed.

Should the rejection be maintained, Applicants reserve the right to provide additional evidence such as that under 37 C.F.R. sections 1.131 and 1.132.

Claims 2 and 5 depend directly or indirectly from the respective independent claims and are patentable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot and request early and favorable consideration of the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-2 and 5.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 1-2 and 5.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the invention as presently claimed in claims 1-17 is patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

6. Conclusion Of Remarks

Applicants submit that new claims 8-17 are patentable over the cited references.

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

7. Authorization

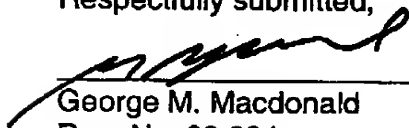
No fee is believed due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-441.

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In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-441.

Respectfully submitted,



George M. Macdonald
Reg. No. 39,284
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3180
PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive, P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000